The Chicago Tribune.

VOL. XXI. CHICAGO, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1867. NUMBER 183.

WASHINGTON.

Signs of Improvement in the Agricultural Bureau.

Explanation Relative to the Recent Removal of Military Commanders.

Senator Morton on the Issues of 1868.

Proposition to Repeal the Suffrage Amendment in Democratic States.

Bill in Preparation for the Establishment of a Civil Service Bureau.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.

THE MILITARY REMOVALS IN SOUTHERN MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA.

It is fully believed in high official circles that the President's late active movements in parts of Maryland foreshadow the final defeat of Congressional reconstruction. It seems that the action in Surratt's case was planned, and the removal of Brevet-Major-General Canby, of Virginia, with a declaration of return from Alabama. They intended that that action should be preparatory to inducing their friends in the Legislature of Virginia to call a convention for the reconstruction of the Virginia State Government, and the reinstatement of the Virginia Senators and Representatives in Congress. It is probable that the President will not be disappointed in the result. The reinstatement of the Alabama constitutional convention, and the removal of the Governor and Secretary of State, will probably be followed by the reconstruction of the Legislature of Alabama, and the election of Senators and Representatives in Congress. The military despotism which has been established in Virginia and Alabama will be followed by the establishment of civil governments. Maryland has been relieved of any apprehended trouble.

THAD. STEVENS RAILING.

New York Herald, Saturday: "Thaddeus Stevens has not yet recovered from the mental indisposition which has prevented his attendance at the sessions of the House of Representatives. He is still confined to his room at the Kirkwood House, and will probably remain there for some days to come. His physicians say that he is not seriously ill, but that his mind is somewhat disturbed. It is probable that he will be able to resume his seat in the House in the course of a few days."

THE PITTSBURG.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—In addition to Senator Sherman's financial resolutions, several bankers have called to-day to remonstrate against the passage of the bill, which, it is understood, will be reported from the Committee of Congress. It is understood that the bankers will urge the passage of the bill introduced by Mr. Hooper, of Massachusetts, and to the Ways and Means Committee, providing for the issue of three per cent certificates.

THE INTERNAL REVENUE.

The statistics called for by the New York Chamber of Commerce, relative to internal revenue, show that the government has collected only eighteen cents, instead of two dollars per gallon, on the whisky distilled in the State of New York during the present year. The Commissioner of Internal Revenue has ordered the collection of the tax, and has instructed the collectors to enforce the law. The government has instituted these investigations at the instance of the New York Chamber of Commerce, and will probably take action against the distillers who have defrauded the United States out of the revenue.

THE SOUTH.

Proceedings in the Louisiana Reconstruction Convention.

Outline of the Proposed New Constitution.

Exaggerated Stories of Anticipated Suffering During the Winter.

Fatal Affray Between Juveniles in Richland, Texas—Suffering Among the Poorer Classes.

Special Despatch to The Chicago Tribune.

NASHVILLE, Texas, Dec. 27.

On Thursday evening, while playing at Decatur, two boys, one white and the other colored, got into a quarrel, when the white boy, named Hudson, drew a pistol and shot the negro boy dead.

THE ISSUES OF OUTRAGE LAW.

In answer to the inquiries of the House Judiciary Committee concerning the number of persons who have been released and arrests for contempt, the Provost-Marshal-General has reported that the number released is 1,000, and the number arrested 1,500. Of these, 1,000 were released on their own recognizance, and the remaining 500 were released by the order of the President, on the application of the Judges of the Supreme Court.

THE REMOVAL OF GENERAL SICKLES.

The Constitution of Saturday says: "Governor Jenkins has written to Washington, urging the removal of General Sickles, and the appointment of General Meade to the command of the district. We hope that Governor Jenkins will succeed in his efforts. General Sickles has been a curse to Georgia, and the sooner he is removed the better it will be for the people of the State."

Exaggerated Account of Suffering at the South.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30.—Despite the excellent reason for believing that the reports of destitution and suffering now coming up from the South, particularly from General Orr's department, are exaggerated, and that the real destitution is confined to a few localities, the destitution is rather greater than generally it may be expected to be in the early winter season. Many of the reports are from persons who have been driven from their homes by the war, and who have not been accustomed to the habits of industry which are necessary to secure a support. The Commissioner of Agriculture is using his best endeavors to bring that labrous into active employment, and with this end in view he is now making out letters to all Southern men, requesting them to call meetings of their neighbors for consultation and co-operation, and suggesting ways in which they may employ themselves. The Commissioner is also at work in his own department, and this week has put in operation a system of correspondence with the South, which will result in bringing to the notice of the Department all cases of destitution and suffering which may require relief

The Tribune.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1876.

Napoleon Declared to Ship Italian genius.

The Latest Condition of Italy, and the Prospect of War.

The Dilleration of Treaties.

FROM PARIS.

Napoleon's Decision to Ship Part the Forces.

The Latest Condition of Italy, and the Prospect of War.

The Dilleration of Treaties.

Reception in Calcutta.

Return to Chicago.

Destruction by Fire in Quincy, Ill.

Another Fire in Quincy, Ill.

Disappearance of Wood Pavements.

A New Use for Petroleum.

Fatal Accident on the Chicago and Alton Railroad.

Collision on the Ohio and Mississippi Railroad.

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Disappearance of Wood Pavements.

A New Use for Petroleum

The Earthquake in Porto Rico.
A letter from Ponce, dated December 5, says:

[illegible] date to the inhabitants of these parts. The day was very sultry, and about o'clock heavy, sullen, lead-colored clouds began settling down on the mountains in dense darkness. The air became close and stifling; not a leaf stirred; not a bird was heard to sing; no animal was visible; in fact the atmosphere prevailed; the stillness appeared intensible, and the sun shone with a sickly, copper color; the mountains exhaled thick vapors at intervals deep, rumbling sounds were heard, accompanied by a subterranean tremor. Finally, at 2:42 o'clock came the crash; it is said that the shock lasted forty-five seconds, but others say only forty. The oscillations were regular, creeping up the few last, in which some little variations were observed, the direction was from southeast to northwest. Since the earthquake of Santa Rosa, in 1825, such severe and prolonged shocks have not been felt. Many persons were in the streets, discussing the probabilities of an earthquake, and visiting the points that suffered from the shock of 1825, when there is hardly a cry was heard. One second after the cry was echoed by thousands of souls, and then, literally, as if by magic, the town of Ponce was left deserted. The confusion beggars description. The people, losing command over themselves with terror, ran through the streets, crying several men running past, carrying their children in their arms, shouting at the top of the voice 'to the cerro!' shouted others from the severity of the shocks that in a few seconds might destroy the town. Men, women and children rushed toward the cerro, or height, which rises behind the town. Infinite heads had the appearance of one immense camp. The people, no doubt terrified by the [illegible] as well as the [illegible] about the submersion of the island of Torbellowed the whitened surf rolls into the air [illegible] of S. [illegible] with [illegible] were exclamation, the earth was extracted at the exact point of centre at the great [illegible] of the cerro. The final [illegible] soon filled the cavity to the level of the way. To this [illegible] which [illegible] the people, exclaimed, 'There, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Tribune.
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1867.

THE CITY.

REPUBLICAN COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENTS.

At a meeting of Republicans, held in the Common Council room, on the following were appointed, for the purpose of making all needful preparations and arrangements for the reception and accommodation of the National Republican Convention, to be held in this city on the 20th of May next:

Charles Randolph,	Jno. C. V. Eyer,
S. C. Schreiber,	John C. Dore,
Conrad N. Bateman,	Charles L. Wilson,
Richard Bowley,	T. K. Cobb,
H. L. Rucker,	Charles Ellis, Jr.,
Joseph Medill,	D. H. Alvord,
August Bradley,	Fay Lawton,
F. C. Sherman,	A. C. Gentry,
S. S. Rumsey,	C. J. Sumner,
A. G. F. Eckhart,	Hancock Davis,
E. P. Ogden,	J. S. Gradwell,
Philip Wadsworth,	W. L. Church,
W. F. Poppers,	Charles Hunt,
W. F. Coolbaugh,	A. U. Lovejoy,
Samuel D. W. Raub,	Foster Hunt,
J. W. Gates,	Charles S. Cowan,
Hasbrouck Crowell,	Chas. Lips,
Samuel T. Shailer,	D. Rhind,
Colonel T. G. Osborne,	Henry M. Smith,
Colonel Robert Rae,	Charles Hall.

The committee of the whole committee are requested to meet at parlor No. 1, Tremont House, on the evening of the 2d inst., at 7½ o'clock, to report their views, and to promptly to the appointment of a sub-committee.

By order of the meeting.

NEW YEAR'S DAY will be rather a dull affair with us. The banks will be closed.

The Post Office will close at 10 A. M. for the day. The afternoon mails will close at 12 M.

THEATRES.—The workers in THE TRIBUNE office are indebted to the proprietor of the McVicker's Theatre saloon for a plentiful spread—rather early in the day for New Year, but not the less acceptable, and all the more so as it partook of the nature of a surprise.

NEW YEARS.—Ladies that anticipate looking for New Year's presents (and of course all do) will find a large assortment at the Jewelry Store of Mrs. Mason, Ryde, Bros., No. 159 State street, up-stairs. Mason, Ryde, Bros. have a very variety of fine ladies' goods, very low prices, and are determined to sell, whether they are selling at cost or very low prices.

CHAIR MANUFACTORY.—Proprietors of chair manufactories in Chicago will observe by the advertisement in another column that a number of the persons employed by them, all of whom there are 75 in the North Division, 60 in the West and 40 in the South Division, have struck for higher wages. It is to be hoped that the strike will not last long, as there is no reason why the employers should not be able to pay as high wages as the manufacturers of other cities, where the cost of living is not greater than it is in this city.

FASHION GARDEN.—Of all the toys for children which combine instruction with fun, the "Fashion Garden," of Messrs. Ryder & Ely, corner of State and Monroe streets, is one of the best which we have seen. Old and young, in fact family, are alike interested in the wonderful operations therein. The machinery is constructed very simply by Messrs. Ryder & Co., who publish other parlor games which deserve a wide circulation. Call and get it before the rush commences, and you will be sure to have a good deal of pleasure for a little money. Inquire for "Square and Try it.

A QUESTIONABLE CASE.—Yesterday a neat-looking German girl, named Mary Smith, was arrested at the Tolitz Gallery with the larceny of a small gold watch. They accuse her of having stolen it from a boarder in the employ of Frank Sommerville, and it was charged that the watch having been missed from the room for which it is the girl's duty to attend, that she had given it to her employer, who had pawned it. The girl, on her arrest, denied the charge, and that she had found the watch in the street. She was committed to the House of Correction, in default of bail, to await the action of the Grand Jury.

PRESERVATION.—A Milwaukee exchange says: "Among the almost numberless Christian preachings, we like that of Mr. A. T. S. Carpenter, the pastor of the Seventh Day Baptist Church, which we noticed in full on Monday. He has a happy way of putting things, and will be promptly in attendance at the meeting."

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N. B. A.—Rumors are in circulation that Mr. Tom Mack's Academy of Music, and the store in the rear of the same, will soon be occupied by Mr. Henry Wallack, as a first-class theatre. Should the rumors prove true, Mr. Wallack will be sure to receive the support of a liberal public.

THE LAKE S. S. MISSION FUND.—A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Seamen's Mission Union was held on Friday evening last in Farwell Hall. It was resolved:

That the annual meeting of the Union for the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as may legally come before it, be held on the first Monday in January, 1868, at 7½ o'clock P. M., at the Mission Rooms, No. 142 Lake street, Chicago.

That the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Union be held on the first Monday in January, 1868, at 7½ o'clock P. M., at the Mission Rooms, No. 142 Lake street, Chicago.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Rev. Robert Patterson, D. D.; Vice-Presidents, Rev. Thomas M. Eddy, D. D., Rev. Arthur Edwards, D. D., Rev. Thomas Nelson, Rev. Alpheus Waters, Rev. George A. Leon, Rev. Augustus Pitcher, Rev. Wm. Clarkson, Rev. Wm. Ormiston, Rev. Wm. Barnes, Rev. Wm. Ormiston, Rev. Wm. Barnes, Rev. Wm. Ormiston, Rev. Wm. Barnes